

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ICAE-00  
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /055 W  
-----028520 111322Z /47

O 111251Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7023

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MANILA 09762

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR AQUINO'S RELEASE AND EXILE

REF: (A) MANILA 9670, (B) MANILA 9755

1. SUMMARY: AN AQUINO FAMILY SOURCE AND FORMER SENATOR SALONGA HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR AQUINO'S RELEASE AND EXILE ARE CLOSE TO COMPLETION. EXILE IS A PRECONDITION FOR RELEASE, AND AQUINO NOW WANTS EXILE. AQUINO HAS SIGNED REQUESTS FOR AMNESTY AND EXILE AND IS NOW AWAITING THE PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE ON A DECREE WHICH WILL PROVIDE A LEGAL BASIS FOR HIS AMNESTY. MARCOS MAY BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON JUNE 12. IT WOULD BEHOOVE US TO HAVE THE DECKS CLEARED CONCERNING AQUINO'S ANTICIPATED REQUEST FOR ENTRY INTO THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. AT A DINNER EVENING OF JUNE 10 MRS. BUTCH AQUINO, SISTER-IN-LAW OF NINOY, TOLD ACTING DCM THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD NOW BEEN WORKED OUT FOR AQUINO'S RELEASE AND EXILE. THESE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN SET AT A MEETING AT FORT BONIFACIO THE PREVIOUS EVENING BETWEEN AQUINO, LABAN LEADERS AND  
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DEFENSE MINISTER ENRILE. THE PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE THE DECISION ON JUNE 12, SHE SAID. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MRS. AQUINO STATED THAT NINOY HAD NOW DEFINITELY DECIDED TO OPT FOR EXILE. AT THE FRIDAY EVENING MEETING AQUINO HAD ASKED HOW LONG HE WOULD HAVE TO REMAIN OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES. ENRILE HAD RESPONDED THAT THAT WAS UP TO THE PRESIDENT. AQUINO'S FAMILY, HOWEVER, COULD

RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES FOR VISITS. ENRILE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AQUINO BE READY TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WITHIN TWO DAYS OF RELEASE, BUT AQUINO'S WIFE CORY SAID AQUINO AND THE FAMILY WOULD NEED ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO WIND UP THEIR AFFAIRS.

3. FORMER SENATOR SALONGA PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO ACTING DCM MORNING OF JUNE 11. SALONGA INDICATED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR NINOY'S RELEASE AND EXILE WERE CLOSE TO COMPLETION. SALONGA IS ABOUT 70 PERCENT SURE THEY WILL WORK OUT. EXILE IS A PRECONDITION FOR RELEASE AND AQUINO, SALONGA SAID, NOW WANTS EXILE.

4. SALONGA CONTINUED THAT HE AND TANADA HAD BEEN DEALING ON THIS MATTER WITH GOP OFFICIALS (ENRILE, ABAD SANTOS, ETC.) SINCE LAST MONDAY (JUNE 5). TANADA'S AND SALONGA'S EFFORTS HAVE BEEN FOCUSED ON WORDING THE DOCUMENTS RELATING TO RELEASE AND EXILE IN SUCH A WAY TO OBVIATE ANY ADMISSION OF GUILT ON AQUINO'S PART. THE UPSHOT IS THAT AQUINO (APPARENTLY SATISFIED WITH THE WORDING AS AMENDED BY TANADA/SALONGA) HAS NOW SIGNED TWO DOCUMENTS. THE FIRST IS A REQUEST FOR AMNESTY. THE SECOND IS A REQUEST TO GO INTO EXILE, WITH AN UNDERTAKING TO DO NOTHING TO IMPAIR "THE IMAGE AND THE SECURITY" OF THE RP. (NOTE: THIS UNDERTAKING IS SIMILAR TO THAT REQUIRED OF THE ALLEGED PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION PLOTTERS WHO ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEING RELEASED - SEE SEPTTEL).

5. WHAT REMAINS TO COMPLETE THE PROCESS, SALONGA SAID, IS MARCOS' SIGNATURE ON A PRESIDENTIAL DECREE AMENDING THE EXISTING DECREE ON AMNESTY. SUCH AN AMENDMENT WILL APPARENTLY AUTHORIZE AMNESTY FOR CERTAIN CASES NOT COVERED BY THE PRESENT DECREE -- I.E. THE AQUINO CASE. THE AMENDMENT MAY BE SIGNED SOMETIME TODAY (JUNE 11), SALONGA INDICATED. IF SO, MARCOS MAY BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE 12TH (SALONGA THOUGHT THAT MARCOS WOULD MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY INDIRECTION, NOT MENTION AQUINO BY NAME). THUS AMNESTY FOR AQUINO WOULD BE IN ADDITION TO THE AMNESTY FOR THE 631 DETAINEES REPORTED SEPTTEL.

6. SALONGA ADDED THAT THE AQUINOS WOULD HAVE TWO WEEKS TO CLOSE OUT THEIR AFFAIRS HERE. THE GAME PLAN, HE EXPECTS, IS THAT AQUINO WOULD BE RELEASED BUT KEPT UNDER HEAVY GUARD WHILE HE WINDS UP MATTERS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE. SALONGA NOTED THAT AQUINO WOULD PLAN TO TAKE ONLY THE TWO YOUNGEST OF HIS FIVE CHILDREN WITH HIM INTO EXILE. THE OLDER CHILDREN WOULD REMAIN IN THE PHILIPPINES TO

COMPLETE SCHOOL. SALONGA WILL URGE THE AQUINOS TO TAKE ALL THEIR CHILDREN ALONG. HE IS CONCERNED THAT IF SOME REMAINED HERE THEY COULD HAVE DIFFICULTIES LATER IN OBTAINING EXIT PERMISSION. (COMMENT: WE RECALL A CASE A YEAR AGO WHERE A CHILD OF THE LOPEZES HAD SUCH DIFFICULTY).

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SALONGA SAID HE NOW ACCEPTS THE IDEA OF AQUINO'S GOING INTO EXILE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT AQUINO'S DEPARTURE WOULD SPELL THE END

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7024

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MANILA 09762

OF A POTENTIAL, MAJOR POLITICAL ROLE FOR AQUINO IN THE PHILIPPINES. MUCH WOULD DEPEND ON HOW AQUINO WOULD HANDLE HIS TIME AWAY FROM THE PHILIPPINES. SALONGA EXPECTED THAT AQUINO WOULD BE ASKED TO GIVE SPEECHES, TESTIFY AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, ETC., AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN THE US. HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT MANGLAPUS WOULD OFFER AQUINO LEADERSHIP OF THE MOVEMENT FOR A FREE PHILIPPINES. HOW AQUINO WOULD RESPOND TO THESE OFFERS (IN THE LIGHT OF HIS UNDERTAKING, PARA 4 ABOVE) SALONGA DID NOT KNOW.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH THESE LATEST INDICATIONS ARE THAT AQUINO WOULD HAVE A LITTLE TIME TO GET HIMSELF ORGANIZED BEFORE DEPARTURE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HAVE THE DECKS CLEARED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE REGARDING PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING HIS ANTICIPATED REQUEST FOR ENTRY INTO THE US (REF B). MURPHY

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## Message Attributes

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